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Cousin Alice

By Barbara Milhaven

As the saying goes, what goes around comes around. Alice Hoffman left her dearly beloved home on Bogue Banks, now Pine Knoll Shores, upon her death in 1953. Many have documented her life and impact on our community, and comments about her have been repeated over and over. The story of how she sued, among many others, the residents of Salter Path because they were squatting on her land and letting their livestock graze on her property destroying her strawberry patch is legendary. Alice did not only sue the Salter Path folks, but when she essentially lost the case, she also fired her lawyer, her cousin John M. Matthias, and sued him as well. It seems Alice really wanted John's dad Edward S. Matthias, who had recently become an Ohio State Supreme Court Justice, to take her case, but as a judge, he was no longer in a position to represent her. So instead, at his wife's mother's request, he sent his son John, who had just recently acquired his law degree.

Enter Ed Sanderson, who recently came to Pine Knoll Shores looking for information about *his* cousin Alice. John Matthias, the one fired and sued, was Ed Sanderson's mother's uncle. Sanderson, or "Sandy" as he is sometimes called, knew some details about distant cousin Alice, but wanted to learn more. He had learned of Alice at a family reunion in Maine just two years before.

Sanderson contacted me and explained his connection with Alice Hoffman. He explained that his great-great-grandmother Green was first married to a West Point graduate who died of typhoid during the Civil War. Some time later, Mary Green Lewis married a gentleman named Crouch, and they had a child. This daughter married Edward S. Matthias, who was Ed Sanderson's grandfather. According to Sanderson, when his great-grandmother died, the remaining members of the Matthias family gave the old Victorian home in Ohio to his mother. Ed Sanderson lived

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